

### Conquering Difficult Readings

1. Read the material again. The first reading lays the essential groundwork for further understanding the second time around.
2. Read the material aloud. Imagine that you are the author talking.
3. Look for essential words. If you are stuck on a paragraph, mentally cross out all the adjectives and adverbs and read the sentence without them. Find the important words (usually verbs and nouns).
4. Stand up and walk around. Changing positions periodically can combat fatigue. Try standing as you read, especially if you get stuck on a tough passage and decide to read it aloud.
5. Hold a mini-review by pausing briefly to summarize what you've read so far, verbally or in writing. Stop at the end of the paragraph and recite in your own words what you have just read.
6. Test your understanding of the material by trying to explain it to yourself or someone else. We often understand more than we think we do.
7. Use another resource. Sometimes concepts are easier to understand if they are expressed in another way or by another author. Encyclopedias and dictionaries are useful for clarifying concepts and helpful background information.
8. Other students who are in or who have completed the course may be able to help you. Discuss with them or find a tutor.
9. Ask your instructor for help.